

## Commissioner's Weekly Wrap Up

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DCS Communications Office

**May 14, 2004**

### **This Week In Central Office**

#### Monday, May 10

Commissioner Miller visited the Davidson County field staff at the old TPS campus.

#### Tuesday, May 11

Commissioner Miller attended the TennCare reform bill signing ceremony at the War Memorial Plaza in Nashville.

For additional information on the Governor's TennCare reform plan, please visit [www.tennessee.gov/governor/tenncare.htm](http://www.tennessee.gov/governor/tenncare.htm)

#### Wednesday, May 12

Executive Director of Child Permanency Elizabeth Black and Family to Family Program Coordinator Servella Terry appeared on Nashville's News Channel 5 Plus *Open Line*. The live show focused on promoting the DCS Foster Care Program and highlighting the ever-increasing need for additional foster parents.

#### Thursday, May 13

Commissioner Miller visited with the Knox, East and North East Region field staff!

### **The Week Ahead**

#### Tuesday, May 18

Commissioner Miller will conduct supervisory training for the Mid-Cumberland, South Central and Davidson County regions.

Staff Contact: [Carla.aaron@state.tn.us](mailto:Carla.aaron@state.tn.us)

#### Wednesday, May 19

Commissioner Miller will conduct supervisory Training for the Knoxville region.  
Staff Contact: [Carla.aaron@state.tn.us](mailto:Carla.aaron@state.tn.us)



## May is National Foster Care Month ...

**Thank you for emailing us your foster care month events! Please keep them coming.**

[Email us](#) your region's foster care month activities to post on the Internet. Please be sure to include **ALL** importation details such as time, date, location and purpose. As of today, we have very few events on our calendar. Help us change that!

Check out the [DCS homepage](#) for a listing of statewide foster care month events and a copy of the corresponding press release.

Please engage your city officials, legislators, community partners and local media in this exciting month of recruitment and celebration!



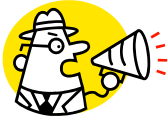
## Team Excellence Challenge Phase II

Team Excellence Phase II continues as you and your peers step up to the plate by submitting resumes and areas of interest to [DCS.Challenge@state.tn.us](mailto:DCS.Challenge@state.tn.us).

Remember: All resumes are due no later than close of business on May 18!

Please see the DCS employee intranet for further details.

## Communications Update



DCS proudly announced this week our new post-adoptive services program initiative, Tennessee Adoption Support and Preservation (ASAP). Please read the corresponding press release here: [www.state.tn.us/youth/news\\_room/news/index.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/youth/news_room/news/index.htm)

Thank you for emailing us your favorite motivational and leadership quotes! Please continue sending them to [Sarah Beth Davis](mailto:Sarah.Beth.Davis@state.tn.us)!



### **TennHelp.com is your One-stop Resource Shop!**

[TennHelp.com](http://TennHelp.com) serves Tennessee families and child welfare employees by providing a wealth of the most accurate data and comprehensive resources available on the web ... so let's put it to good use!

You may also access TennHelp.com via the DCS intranet homepage by clicking the "Online Services" tab at the top of the screen.

## **Take a look at the new employee intranet ...**



### **"Employee X-Change"**

This page is designed to feature you and your favorite things! Please help us fill it up with your recipes, announcements, weddings, births, retirements and favorite places by emailing [Sarah.beth.davis@state.tn.us](mailto:Sarah.beth.davis@state.tn.us). Please type the category in the subject line.

## *From the Desk of Viola Miller: Lifebooks and Lifeboxes*

In so many ways, each of us defines whom we are by where we came from. Remember for a moment your treasured thoughts of childhood. Those thoughts are of people we loved, many of them looked like us...parents, grandparents, and cousins. Each of us also treasures memories of favorite places, pets, toys and special events. Photographs or objects we saved through the years trigger many of those memories.

One of my favorite treasures is an old shoebox. In it are my children's baby rings and the identification bracelet they wore when they were born. There's a paper mache tiger my son made in grade school and a vintage "watch ring" given to me by a fondly remembered friend. I also have boxes of old photographs of my deceased mother and my children during their "growing up" years. There is comfort there that cannot be replicated.

Our children are often wrenched from all those things that "make memories," those things that tie us to our past and to who we are and will become. The very least we can do for them is to help preserve some memories. Lifebooks and Lifeboxes are our way of doing that.

If we can help identify and preserve their life treasures, we give them a gift. If we can consciously take photographs and help them document their histories; we can

make the awful experience of losing their familiar and valued past.

The moment a child enters custody should be the moment we begin preserving what is important to that child. Beloved objects can be kept in a special place or box for the child to touch when she needs comfort. Photos, letters, cards can and should be preserved in this lifebook.

Each one of us has responsibility to insure that our children's lives are valued and important. Our kids have all too often, "been to the wars." They have been battered and bruised in childhood. Their young lives have been damaged. The very least we can do is find ways to help them preserve memories and objects that they love.

Lifebooks and Lifeboxes are the only tangible means we have of insuring that our children remain connected to their past. Even among all the negative experiences, our children will want a record of who they are and from where they came.

**Please commit yourselves to the preservation of our children's history. Remember your treasures and help our children preserve theirs.**

Thank you for all you do for Tennessee's families and children. Let us all commit to the value of the life of each of our children.



## **Education Station: Learn - Communicate - Empower**

### **Legal Rights of persons receiving TennCare services: The Grier consent decree**

Persons on TennCare have legal rights to receive a written notification before any services are not provided, or before services are cut off.

These rights are set out in federal Medicaid regulations. In Tennessee, rights for TennCare enrollees are specified in a court decree called Grier v. Wadley. Under the provisions of the court decree, DCS must provide specific notice to children in care receiving TennCare funded DCS services.

What services does TennCare fund? DCS provides some residential services that are funded by TennCare. This includes levels 2, 3, and 4 services. That means any time there is a decision to provide, or discontinue a level 2/3/4 service, the TennCare enrollee (that means the child or the child's representative) must receive a Written notice.

Once the notice is received, an appeal may be filed, and the enrollee is entitled to a hearing about whether the service should be provided.

When Child and Family Team meetings are held, case managers should come prepared with a Notice of Action (available on the DCS forms) to complete should there be a decision about Level 2/3/4 services. This Notice of Action must be provided when there is any determination to provide a level 2/3/4 service.

Also, if the level 2/3/4 service is requested, and not provided, the Notice of Action is provided.

**If you have questions about the Legal Rights of TennCare enrollees, or the Notice of Action that must be provided, please see your TennCare Representative.**



My basic principle is that you don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right.

~Theodore Hesburgh

The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just.

~President Abraham Lincoln

The Pessimist curses the wind...  
The Optimist hopes it will change...  
The Realist adjusts the sails.

~Author Unknown

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

~Margaret Mead

The capacity for hope is the most significant fact of life. It provides human beings with a sense of destination and the energy to get started.

~Norman Cousins

Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.

~Author Unknown

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